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Class 10 English (Footprints without Feet) Notes

A Triumph of Surgery



Key Notes and Important Questions with Answers

Lesson-1
The Triumph of Surgery
 By-James Harriot

Characters : Key Points

Mr. Herriot - the Vet (Veterinary Doctor)

Mr. Herriot-the Vet (Veterinary Doctor)	Mrs. Pumphrey - the rich lady
* Concerned about Tricki's health. * Warns his mistress Mrs. Pumphrey to cut short his diet and add to exercises. * But doubts that the lady would heed. Thus expect a call soon. * makes all preparations of his treatment in advance. * brings the dog to his surgery (hospital). * keeps the dog on water only and allows him to struggle for food and fun. * meanwhile enjoys the rich diet of eggs and liquor meant for Tricki with friends. * happy to see the dog jostling for food. * a dull a drooping dog was now agile and dart. * Thus a surgery wins o v e r vanity and pampering.	* Rich lady ; full of vanity. * Fond of feeding the dog even at the cost of his health. * Doesn't believe in giving any trouble to her pet, *Passionate: Can't imagine to live without her dog (anxiously hovered in the background, ringing a dozen times a day for the latest bulletins. - Pompous: Convalescing: Sends fresh eggs, two dozen at a time, to build up Tricki's strength. - Crazy: As the Vet informed the recovery, within minutes, drew up outside the surgery. - Emotional: Tears shone in her eyes. Her lips trembled. - Thankful: "Oh, Mr. Herriot," she cried, "how can I ever thank you.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

Passage-1

I WAS really worried about Tricki this time. I had pulled up my car when I saw him in the street with his mistress and I was shocked at his appearance. He had become hugely, fat, like a bloated sausage with a

leg at each corner. His eyes, bloodshot and rheumy, stared straight ahead and his tongue lolled from his jaws.

- a) Who refers to 'I' in the passage?
- b) Who is 'the mistress' here?
- c) Why was the speaker worried?

Answers:

Passage-1

- Set-1
- a) Mr. Herriot the vet
 - b) Mrs. Pumphrey
 - c) about Tricki's, (Mrs. Pumphrey's pet) health.

Set-2

- a) Why had the speaker pulled up his car?
- b) Who had become hugely fat and why?
- c) 'His eyes, were bloodshot and rheumy', what does it show?

Answers :

- Set-2
- a) to warn (Mrs. Pumphrey) about Tricki's health
 - b) Tricki. because of overfeeding and lack of exercise
 - c) it shows that Tricki was ill

Passage-2 (Unsolved)

I watched their progress with growing concern. Tricki was tottering along in his little tweed coat he had a whole wardrobe of these coats —for the cold weather and a raincoat for the wet days. He struggled on, drooping in his harness. I thought it wouldn't be long before I heard from Mrs. Pumphrey.

Passages-4 (Unsolved)

But I took a firm line. Tricki was very ill and this was the only way to save him; in fact, I thought it best to take him without delay and, followed by Mrs. Pumphrey's wailings, I marched out to the car carrying the little dog wrapped in a blanket.

Questions:

- a) What made Mrs. Pumphrey wail?
- b) Who refers to 'I' here? Why did he take a firm line?
- c) 'this was the only way to save him'- Which way is being referred to here?
- d) Find a word from the passage which means the same as scream.

Passages-5 (Unsolved)

All the while, Mrs. Pumphrey hovered anxiously in the background, ringing a dozen times a day for the latest bulletins. I dodged the questions about whether his cushions were being turned regularly or his correct coat worn according to the weather; but I was able to tell her that the little fellow, was out of danger and convalescing rapidly.

- a) Explain 'all the while' in the present context.
- b) Why did the speaker dodge the questions?
- c) Who were the cushions and coats for?
- d) Find a word from the passage which means the same as 'avoid'

SAQs :

(Use the text book to the optimum)

- I. What was the condition of the dog when he was brought to the surgery?

Ans. Text Book: Tricki looked down at the noisy pack with dull eyes and, when put down, lay motionless on the carpet. The other

dogs, after sniffing round him for a few seconds, decided he was an uninteresting object and ignored him.

2. What visible changes in the dog after two weeks in the surgery suggested him fit enough to go back to his mistress.

Ans. Tricki In two weeks he had been transformed into a nimble, hard-muscled animal; he was keeping up well with the pack, stretching out in great bounds, his chest almost brushing the ground.

3. What was the real cause of Tricki's ill health?
4. Why was it impossible to treat Tricki at Mrs. Pumphrey's house?
5. Why was it necessary (the only way) to take Tricki to the surgery to cure him?

Long Answer Questions

1. 'Kids or Cubs need fondling but too much pampering may harm them,' How far does it apply in the case of Tricki?

Ans. Mrs. Pumphrey is very fond of her pet, Tricki. She gives him rich diets and even richer caring like having wardrobes full of different weather clothes for him. Tricki has neither fixed timings nor control over eating. This makes him greedy and ill. His mistress still keeps stuffing him despite consistent warnings from the doctor. Soon Tricki comes to trotting, drooping and panting for breath. Finally he had to be sent to hospital for recovery. Only discipline on eating and fun play would cure him.

2. 'I took a firm line. Tricki was very ill and this was the only way to save him; in fact,' Does the doctor take the right line? What values of a good doctor you find in Mr. Herriot?
3. How did Mr. Herriot help Tricki and his Mistress?

